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FLOWER

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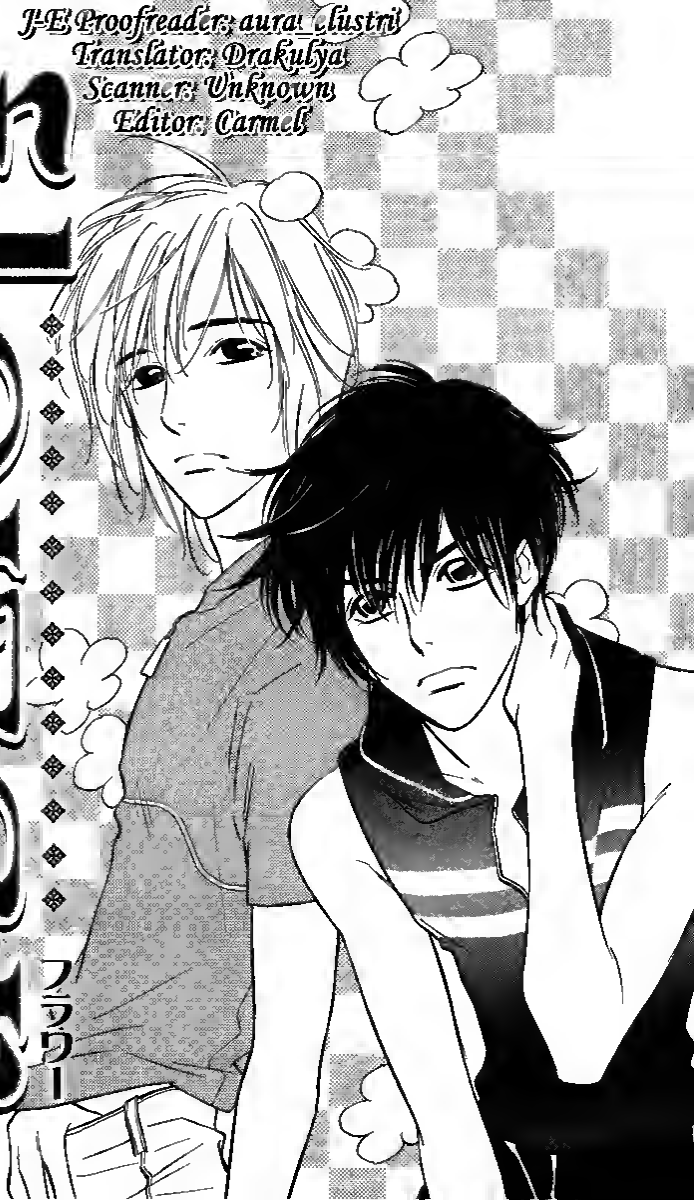


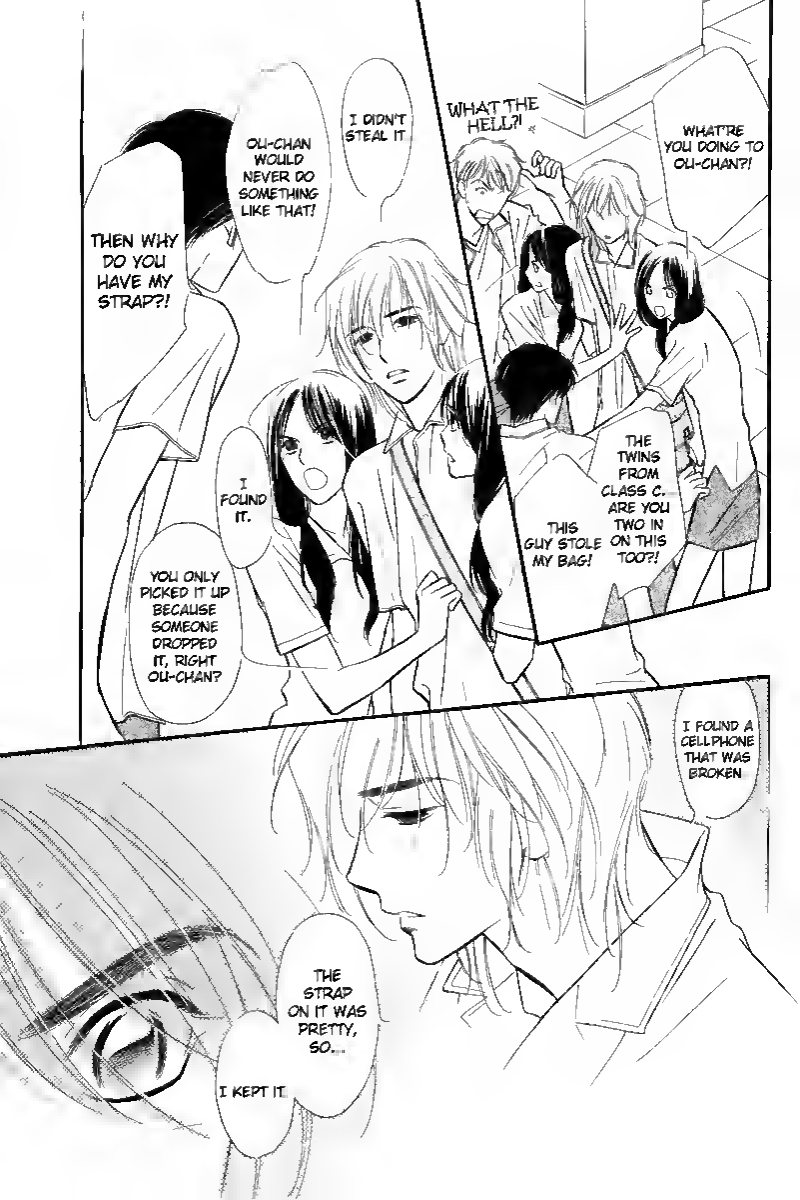
MAN, THIS SUCKS...
MY BAG'S BEEN STOLEN!
EHH? WHEN?
LAST SATURDAY. I'VE ALREADY BEEN TO THE POLICE AND CANCELLED MY CARDS IT'S SUCH A PAIN!
My wallet and cellphone's gone too!
HEY, LOOK OVER THERE.
IS IT THE BAG THAT FOUR-EYES IS HOLDING? IT'S NEW!
DID YOU BUY THIS WITH THE MONEY YOU STOLE FROM RYOU-CHAN?
N-NO..
AHH— IT CAN'T BE HIM HE WOULDN'T HAVE THE GUTS!
Ke Ke Ke
RYOU-KUN, WHERE EXACTLY DID IT GET STOLEN?

AT THE ARCADE
UWAH, SO SOME GUY WALKED AWAY WITH YOUR BAG?
YOU'RE SO CARELESS!
I'LL PAY CLOSER ATTENTION NEXT TIME!
Be quiet!
I HAD TO GET A NEW PHONE, SO THE MEMORY'S COMPLETELY BLANK...
ME! PLIT MINE IN FIRST~!
WAIT A SEC! LET'S DO ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS!
Kyaa!
AHH... I WISH THEY'D RETURN MY WALLET. I HAD A LOT OF MONEY IN IT...
And my cellphone too!
OH?
I TOLD YOU NOT TO BRING SO MUCH MONEY!
So that means you'll just give away money?
THAT'S WHY I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE WALLET!

HEY!
STANDS
RYOU?

THIS IS MINE!
THIS STRAP IS MINE!
WHAT? IS THIS THE GUY THAT STOLE FROM RYOU-CHAN?
YEAH IT IS!
THE CELL-PHONE'S DIFFERENT BUT THE STRAP IS MINE!
...?
WAS IT YOU?! DID YOU STEAL MY BAG?

THIEF! GIVE ME BACK MY BAG!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT..
THE CULPRIT'S A STUDENT HERE?!
STOP PRETENDING TO BE INNOCENT! THAT STRAP ..
ISN'T SOMETHING YOU CAN BUY.
I RECOGNIZED IT AS SOON AS I SAW IT!
WHY DON'T YA SAY SOMETHING?
AH ..
WHERE'S MY BAG?!
PUSH
WHAT?
PUSH
KYAH!!
OU-CHAN?!


WHAT'RE YOU DOING TO OU-CHAN?!
WHAT THE HELL?!
THE TWINS FROM CLASS C. ARE YOU TWO IN ON THIS TOO?!
THIS GUY STOLE MY BAG!
I DIDN'T STEAL IT
OU-CHAN WOULD NEVER DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
THEN WHY DO YOU HAVE MY STRAP?!
I FOUND IT.
YOU ONLY PICKED IT UP BECAUSE SOMEONE DROPPED IT, RIGHT OU-CHAN?
I FOUND A CELLPHONE THAT WAS BROKEN
THE STRAP ON IT WAS PRETTY, SO...
I KEPT IT.

SEE! HE'S NOT A THIEF!
APOLOGIZE TO OU-CHAN!
WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT?
SHOW ME PROOF THAT HE'S NOT THE CULPRIT!
PLEASE SETTLE DOWN!
YEAH! SHOW US!
COME ON!!
JEEZ~
RYOU WAS THE VICTIM AND HE STILL GOT AN EARFUL!
THAT GUY... I DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT GUY 'OU-CHAN'.
... IS HE AN IDIOT?
I'LL SAY!
How annoying~
THE TEACHERS ARE SO UNFAIR

HIS NAME IS OUMI NAOZUMI.
HE'S PRETTY SMART! HE'S ALWAYS IN THE TOP 10 ON TESTS.
YOU SEEM TO KNOW A LOT
WE WENT TO THE SAME JUNIOR HIGH!
HE'S SMART AND MATURE, SO THE TEACHERS FAVOR HIM.
He doesn't talk much
So he's mature...
I don't think he's the one either, but...
Got it back
He used something he just found?
What the hell!
"It was pretty, so—"
.....

It's him.
What's he doing...?
HE'S DRAWING SOMETHING?
HEY!
.....

FALL
WHO'RE YOU?
AREN'T YOU ANGRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED THIS MORNING?
THEN AGAIN, IT WAS YOUR FAULT! RANDOMLY PICKING UP SOMEONE ELSE'S STUFF LIKE THAT...
AH, THE STRAP ..?
Did he really forget about me?!
I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE AN IMPRESSION LIKE THAT, BUT...
THE ART NOUVEAU PATTERN.
!
WHEN I FIRST SAW THAT STRAP,
I THOUGHT IT WAS PRETTY.

I know that
WHAT KIND OF PICTURE?
FLOWERS
WHAT
ARE YOU DRAWING?
A PICTURE
THEY BLOOMED TODAY
YOU LIKE FLOWERS?
AHHH!
-FU-THUMP
silence~
Erm
This guy... He knows about the strap because he draws...

GET AWAY FROM OU-CHAN!
ARE YOU BOTHERING OU-CHAN AGAIN?!
BULLY!
BULLY!
SH-SHUT UP! WHAT'S WITH YOU TWO...
(I ALWAYS FORGIVE!)
Bloourgh!
Shoo, shoo!
WE KNOW ALL ABOUT IT! YOU GUYS ARE A BUNCH OF BULLIES!
IT'D BE BETTER IF YOU DIDN'T COME TO SCHOOL!
BULLLYYY!
YOU'RE THE WORST!
HMPH!
What the hell...?

AHH~~~ IT'S ME! YEAH.
HALF PAST 6? GOT IT.
DING
DONG
6:30 AT THE EAST ENTRANCE WITH MIEKO-CHAN AND THEM~~
HEH~~
RYOU-CHAN, ARE YOU LISTENING?
!
RYOU-CHAAAN?!
AH, I'LL BE GOING ON AHEAD!
EH?
HEEEY!
WILL HE REALLY COME...?
We've got no money
YO!
OU-CHAN!

Hey!
WAIT! DO YOU REMEMBER MY FACE AT ALL?
WAIT UP!
WHAT?
EH?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
UH...
Do I... want anything?
UMM, LET'S SEE..
HUH...
WHAT IS IT?
I HEARD YOU'RE PRETTY STUDIOUS. YOU'RE A STRANGE ONE!
Hey!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT? IT'S BETTER THAN SKIPPING CLASS, RIGHT?

I CAME TO APOLOGIZE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?
IT'S ANNOY-ING.
STOP FOLLOWING ME.
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU.

"I don't believe you."

...is what he said.

He must have been angry to have said that.

HEY...
WHAT WOULD IT TAKE FOR YOU TO BELIEVE ME?
YOU DON'T LISTEN TO ME, SO HOW CAN I EARN YOUR TRUST?
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO!
HEY—!
ERK!
YOU AGAIN?!
JEEZ, WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WHAT? I WAS ONLY TALKING TO HIM!
I was by myself, too.
Nn?
IF YOU WANT TO TALK TO OU-CHAN, WHY DON'T YOU START WITH AN APOLOGY?
YOU CALLED OU-CHAN A THIEF, DIDN'T YOU?
Apologize?
WHAT IS IT NOW.. I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!
GRRR
That's...
APOLOGIZE!

"OK"?
OK!
.....
I'M SORRY.
Bye
OH!
I SHOULD MENTION THAT OU-CHAN DOESN'T TALK MUCH.
Most of the time!
.....
It's alright now because I apologized? They don't hate me?
AH...!

DASH
SEE YOU!
NAKATOMI? THIS IS RARE...
TEACHER—!
THAT GUY! PLEASE TELL ME THAT GUY'S ADDRESS!
KOIZUMI'S!
SIGN: KOIZUMI
小泉
THIS IS IT.

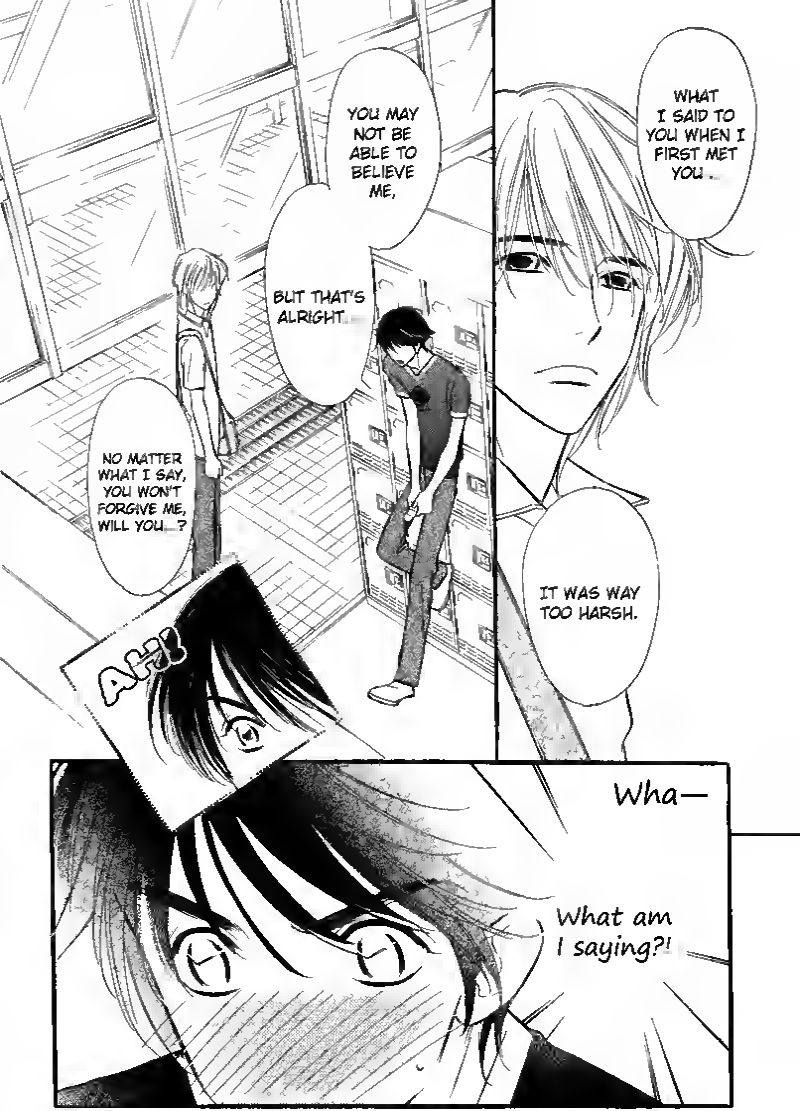
UMM...
I'M NAKATOMI FROM KOIZUMI-KUN'S CLASS.
His mom?
IS HE HOME?
What is your business with him?
DING
DONG
Hello
who is this?
LIFT
UH... I'D JUST LIKE TO TALK WITH HIM A LITTLE.
She thinks I'm suspicious
Hiroto's feeling unwell so he can't see anyone
OH—
CLICK!
.....

HEY, KOIZUMI!
YOU THERE?
IT'S NAKA-TOMI.
UM...
I'M...
I'M SORRY!
I DON'T ACTUALLY HATE YOU!
AND I APOLOGIZE FOR WHEN I YELLED AT YOU.
PLEASE BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY THAT I REALLY ONLY WANT TO TALK TO YOU!

See ya~!
Ou-chan! Are you going home?

CLOCK
UH, YOU KNOW...
I WENT AND APLOGIZED TO KOIZUMI.
KOIZUMI?
OH,
HE'S THE GUY IN MY CLASS WHO DOESN'T COME TO SCHOOL
HE WOULDN'T SEE ME, BUT I TRIED TO TALK TO HIM.
EVEN IF YOU APOLOGIZE HE PROBABLY WON'T FORGIVE YOU.
RIGHT..
Yeah, I know that.
BUT,
WHAT YOU DID IS BETTER THAN NOT APOLOGIZING AT ALL.
WHY DID YOU SUSPECT ME?
HUH?

YOU DIDN'T TRUST ME, DID YOU?
.....
THIS STRAP...
I MADE IT.
I WASN'T GOOD AT DESIGNING, SO I COPIED AN ART NOUVEAU PICTURE FROM AN ART BOOK...
BUT THAT'S WHY I COULD TELL AT A GLANCE THAT IT WAS MINE.


WHAT I SAID TO YOU WHEN I FIRST MET YOU...
IT WAS WAY TOO HARSH.
YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO BELIEVE ME,
BUT THAT'S ALRIGHT...
NO MATTER WHAT I SAY, YOU WON'T FORGIVE ME, WILL YOU...?
Ah!
Wha—
What am I saying?!

HERE!
YOU CAN HAVE IT!

YAWN...
TIRED SO EARLY IN THE MORNING, RYOU-CHAN?
I'M SLEEPY!
He was speechless...
Jeez... How embarrassing! What on earth was I doing?
AH!

I...
DON'T WANT THIS.
SHO
YOU DON'T—
CK
THEN GIVE IT TO ME
Oh...?
I DREW A DESIGN.
MAKE IT.
rip

A few days later..

TH—THUMP
.....
HM...?
HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY MONEY, AND GOING OUT WITH US IS TOO EXPENSIVE...
THAT'S SO UNFAIR! HE'S DITCHED US FOR HIS NEW PURSUITS~~!
HE SAID HE STAYED UP ALL NIGHT
HE OVERSLEPT AND NOW HE'S IGNORING US~~!
WHAT'S UP WITH RYOU-KUN TODAY?
WHAT THE HELL!

HEY, YOU...
DO YOU...
KNOW MY NAME? DO YOU?
CRASH
NOT A CLUE.
SIGH
END